

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /003 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115827

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJ: PEACE CORPS TRAINING IN LEBANON

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 11 FROM BEIRUT REPEATED
FOR YOU:

QUOTE

BEIRUT 6830

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS TRAINING IN LEBANON

REF: STATE 108724

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE DEPARTMENT' S
REFERENCED TELEGRAM IN ORDER THAT THE EMBASSY' S RECORD
RE THE PEACE CORPS TRAINING OPERATION BE CLEAR. STATE
070285 WAS IN THE TOPEC SERIES AND FOR THE PEACE CORPS
REPRESENTATIVE. BEIRUT' S 4427 WAS ALSO IN THE TOPEC
SERIES AND DID NOT REPRESENT THE EMBASSY' S VIEW AS IT WAS
NEITHER DISCUSSED NOR CLEARED WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER
BEFORE IT WAS SENT. IT REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF
THE PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE HERE.

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2. SINCE HIS RETURN, BITAR AND I HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF HELPFUL CONVERSATIONS ON THE PROBLEM AND THE NECESSITY OF COORDINATION AND CONSULATION BETWEEN HIS OPERATION AND THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN STRESSED. THE BASIC PROBLEM WAS CERTAINLY NOT MALINTENT ON ANYONE'S PART BUT A LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PEACE CORPS REPRESENTATIVE AND THE MISSION. I THINK WE HAVE A WORKING ARRANGEMENT NOW WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE PROBLEMS DEVELOPING OF THE CHARACTER WE ARE NOW FACING.

3. THE PROBLEM NOW IS TO WORK OUT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT THE PROGRAMS FOR THE THREE COUNTRIES. AUB IS WILLING TO GO AHEAD WITH THE TWO WEEK ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM IN AUGUST. FOR POLITICAL REASONS IT CANNOT HANDLE THE TRAINING OF ALL 42 PARTICIPANTS ON OR OFF THE CAMPUS. AUB AND WE FEEL THAT IF LEBANON IS GOING TO BE USED AT ALL, THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER PUBLICITY RE THE TRAINING BY THE PEACE CORPS.

4. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO BITAR THAT PERHAPS SOME OF HIS PROBLEMS IN REARRANGING THE PROGRAM MIGHT BE ELIMINATED IF THE ARABIC TRAINING COULD BE DONE IN THE STATES. BITAR HAS THE MATERIAL PREPARED FOR THE COURSE BUT NEEDS AN OMANI, YEMENI AND BAHREINI TEACHER. WE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THE FSI COULD ORGANIZE THE PROGRAM AND THE WASHINGTON EMBASSIES OF THE THREE COUNTRIES COULD FIND TEACHERS. THIS MAY NOT BE PRACTICAL BUT WE THOUGHT IT WORTH INVESTIGATING.

5. BITAR IS NOW INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITIES OF DOING THE TRAINING ELSEWHERE OR DOING THE TECHNICAL TRAINING HERE BY STAGGERING VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL GROUPS SO THERE WOULD BE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS HERE AT ANY ONE TIME. THIS WE COULD LIVE WITH IF THE SITUATION HERE DOES NOT DETERIORATE AND WE THINK AUB COULD ALSO.

6. WE REGRET THE DISRUPTION IN TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS BUT GIVEN THE UNCERTAIN SECURITY SITUATION HERE WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT RECOMMEND AGAINST A TRAINING PROGRAM OF THE DIMENSIONS ENVISAGED BEING HELD IN LEBANON. WE STAND READY, HOWEVER, TO ASSIST THE PROGRAM IN ANY WAY CONSISTENT TH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SECURITCONDITIONS NOW PREVAILING HERE. HOUGHTON

UNQUOTE. PORTER

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